

Consuming Fire

BRISTO BAPTIST MAGAZINE

MAY / JUNE 2007



BULGARIAN PERFORMANCE EVENING

On Saturday 21st April a good number of people gathered in the Middle Hall for an evening of sponsored performances in aid of the Belogradchik Orphanage in northwest Bulgaria. There was a tremendous variety of acts, including songs from Lesley Armistead and Andrea Mill, song and drama/dance from Vivienne Smith and her friend, Japanese and Scottish music from Sam, Sally and their friends, dance from Caroline Connell and her friend Laura, comedy from Matt Baines and Brian Barclay (the ‘mad professor’), Jim Allison on

the tuba, Linda Allison and Linda Watson as ‘musical Pink Panthers’ and last but no means least our pastor doing a headstand while singing “Three Blind Mice”! During the interval we were served delicious Bulgarian style food. At least £2000 was raised for the orphanage; the final figure is not yet available. Thank you to all who performed, sponsored performers, cooked or helped in the kitchen, or just came along to enjoy a really good evening of fellowship and fun.



Brian Barclay
(the ‘mad professor’)



Japanese music

Robert Mill

Service Times

Sunday

Morning Celebration (including Junior Church)	11.00 a.m.
Evening Celebration	6.30 p.m.

Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday

Cell Groups (refer to weekly sheet for times / locations)

Monday

Prayer Meeting	10.00 a.m.
Badminton Club	6.00 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Tuesday

Home from Home	1.00 p.m.
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Friday

IT Youth Club	7.30 p.m.
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Saturday

Morning of Prayer	9.30 a.m.
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COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

Sunday 17 June
for publication on
Sunday 1 July

Theme:
'Living Water'

www.bristobaptist.org

FROM THE EDITOR

*Therefore, since we are
receiving a kingdom that
cannot be shaken, let us be
thankful, and so worship
God acceptably with
reverence and awe, for our
"God is a consuming fire".
(Heb. 12: 29)*



In 1997 a devastating fire destroyed some monkey puzzle trees in Papua New Guinea that were the tallest trees in the tropics – about 90 metres tall and probably thousands of years old. Just one of many such natural disasters, or “acts of God”.

Many times in God's Word it speaks of Him being like a consuming fire. Just as the effects of a devastating fire can be truly awesome, we need to be filled with awe of God. We also need to let His consuming ‘Holy fire from heaven’ burn within us to destroy all that keeps us from being close to Him. We need not be afraid of the fire, for it is His love and His Spirit that burn and consume, so that they and He might have their rightful places in our lives.

Robert Mill

FROM THE PASTOR

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

(Hebrews 12: 28-29)



Rev. J. Purves

Dear Friends,

As I write, the final results of the Scottish elections are coming in. Interesting! We will no doubt see, in coming weeks, much wheeling and dealing as the dynamics of power in the Scottish political scene are worked through. Power is a fundamental issue in life. Who has input. Who has influence. Who exercises control.

And power has a spiritual dimension too. In our inner selves, who has input; who has influence; who exercises control? This is a

fundamental question in the outworking and development of our creativity and usefulness in life.

Jesus knew this. This is why He told the disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had been clothed with power from on high. It wasn't that he thought them useless, or lacking in creativity. It was an issue of power.

Looking over Christian history and what has happened in my own life, it seems to me that we constantly want to avoid the challenge of this truth. We want a

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FROM THE PASTOR

little to be enough. A touch of the Spirit. A little ecstasy to occasionally savour life. But consuming fire?

John the Baptist said that Jesus would baptise people with the Holy Spirit and with Fire. What did this mean? John Wesley, the great churchman of the eighteenth century, came through to an experience of God that involved him knowing a purifying and cleansing of his whole being and inner heart: Wesley called this 'entire sanctification'. It was this experience, and the realisation that God would come to us to cleanse and purify us, that led to the revivalist movements of the nineteenth century, and ultimately to the great revivals of that century and into the twentieth century, including the Welsh Revival and the Lewis Revival.

But consuming fire has to be longed for. To be sought in prayer. To be anguished over and cried out for. God comes to the measure that we long for His purifying presence and power. This, to me, is the essence of what prayer is about. It is an issue of power. Not power for us, but God's power active in us and through us. Christ's ministry being released in and through our souls, minds and bodies through the indwelling enabling and guiding of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Do we want to be a people taken up in the power of God? Let us long and cry out for the consuming fire. For it comes for those who wait for it. Let this waiting and longing be at the heart of our worship.

In His love,

Jim

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DEACONS ELECTION

Nominations close *Sunday 13 May*. Ballot papers will be distributed on the following two Sundays and must be returned by Sunday 3 June. Only full members of Bristo Baptist Church are eligible for election and can vote.

Christine Lumsden

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting takes place on *Wednesday 6 June*. This is an important date in our church calendar as we learn what the Lord has done over the past year and continue to seek His will for the future.

Christine Lumsden

TREASURER'S REPORT: MAY 2007

It's the busiest time of year for a Treasurer. Not only is it the time to produce the annual end of year accounts and OSCR report, but it's also time to produce a budget for the forthcoming year and, to top it all, the end of year Tax returns have also to be completed. At least this time I have a year's experience behind me, and all this work is not quite so daunting! I enclose an end of year provisional summary of income and expenditure.

General Income	Budgeted Income	Actual Annual Income
Church Offerings	40000	37014
Tax refund	7000	6374
Use of Halls	8000	5190
Total	55000	48578

TREASURER'S REPORT: MAY 2007

A payment of £4200 is outstanding in lieu of hall rental. This will be entered into the 2008 account.

Total income for 2006/07 including designated offerings to the mission fund:
£53318

Expenditure	Budgeted Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Employment	32500	28404
Supply	1000	300
Energy	6200	4305
Insurance	2880	2956
Refurbishment	1000	1793
Furniture & Equipment	2300	30
Repairs to church and manse	5000	12617
Tuning	150	228
Council Tax	2600	2511
Phone	800	957
Office	500	340
Subscriptions	800	532
Children & Young People	650	532
Outreach/Publicity	1200	556
Literature & Copyright	500	293
Care Van	100	156
Fellowship	500	300
Sundries	1000	1463
Total	59680	58273

TREASURER'S REPORT: MAY 2007

A few comments on these figures: The increase in energy bills for the church was substantially less than expected. Most of the “refurbishment” expenditure went on the church flat. The flat was in fairly poor decorative repair and now offers substantially improved accommodation. The “Equipment” budget included amounts set aside for a projector and laptop for the sanctuary. As a result of the discussions as to the use of the church buildings, the purchase of this was suspended. Unexpected large structural repair bills to the manse roof and to the church roof and window sills resulted in the repairs expenditure exceeding budget.

Mission Fund

Income to the Mission Fund in 2006/07 was: **£4741**. The following payments have been made from a combination of Mission Fund donations, tax refund and transfer from general offerings:

BMS	1500
LOM	6547
FATELA	200
Bethany Christian Trust	500
Edinburgh City Mission	200
Tear Fund	200
Total	9147

The complete 2006/07 church accounts, made up to the specification of the charities regulator, will detail how this income and expenditure actually reflects across the various funds the church operates, for example much of the repairs budget will be taken from the Fabric Fund. I'll have copies of this and also a proposed budget for the coming year available at the forthcoming Annual General Church Meeting in June.

Paul Watson

COMING EVENTS**National Prayer March ‘Connecting Scotland’**

On Pentecost Sunday, 27 May, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. there will be a national prayer march from the Castle, down the Royal Mile and finishing with an outdoor event in Holyrood Park. If you wish to take part contact prayermarch@edinburghprayer.org or see www.edinburghprayer.org for more details. This is the culmination of 50 days of prayer throughout Scotland in various areas.

BMS Women’s Link (East)

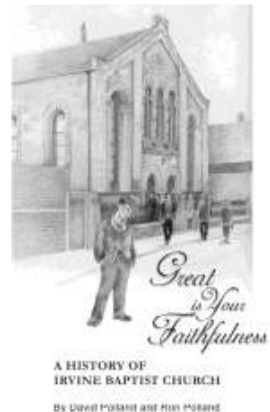
Wednesday 23 May, 1 p.m. Derek Clark, BMS Scottish Co-ordinator, will speak on his recent visit to Albania and Kosovo. See notice board for details.

Christine Lumsden

NEW LOOK MAGAZINE ... AND A HISTORY BOOK

I have decided to revamp the style of the church magazine since this edition marks the final time I will be responsible for its production! This is to make the whole production process easier for Curtis Harrier who will be taking over my role as production editor and working alongside Robert and Andrea. Anyway, I hope you like the new-look magazine and I’m sure the magazine team will welcome your comments. It has been a pleasure to work with Robert and Andrea over the years and I know we have achieved a lot together. I will, however, retain some involvement with the magazine by ensuring the web edition appears on the church website.

On a separate issue, my brother Ron and myself have brought out a book on the history of Irvine Baptist Church, the church we attended until we moved east! At almost 200 pages it is an interesting and informative read for those interested in local church history. See me if you would like to borrow (or buy!) a copy. Our secretary, Christine Lumsden, contributes a chapter.



David Pollard

A NEW SONG UNTO THE LORD

This song came to me over the course of a few days - something from the Lord as this is a new experience for me. It does, however, reflect the way that I was feeling after a long period of being in the desert. The more comfortable and happy, and busy I have become the harder it has become to stay close to the Lord. My heart's desire is to recapture that place of intimacy and this is reflected in the song.



A Cry From my Heart

1. I don't want to sing words of empty praise
I want to worship from my heart
I don't want to speak prayers that sound so good
I want to cry from my heart

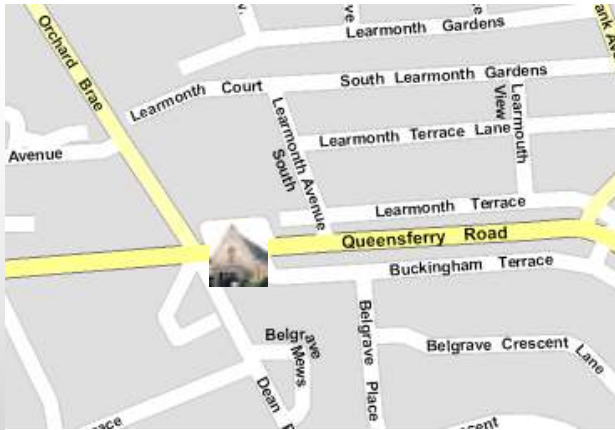
Chorus

Change me, O God, Come Holy Spirit
Flood me with light, and awe in your presence
Water the hardness of my heart
Cleanse me of all the worldliness within me
Renew my mind make me like you
Fill me with compassion and love

2. I don't want to read your Word from mindless duty
I want the words to pierce my heart
I don't want to lock myself in isolation
I want to share from my heart

Andrea Mill

LOCATION



Bristo Baptist Church

41 Buckingham Terrace / 1 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh EH4 3DJ

Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden. For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Deuteronomy 4: 23-24